

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, and 18 are amended. Claims 2, 3, 7, 12, and 17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-20 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 15 are objected to for recited "a history." Claims 10 and 15 are amended to recite a history table, as required by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 11 and 13-15 are amended to recite a storage medium, which is statutory subject matter. Claim 12 is canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 8, 17, and 18 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claim objection and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections and the claim objection and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claim 7 is canceled, and its elements are added to its independent base claim 6, so claim 6 is allowable. Claim 8 is amended to depend on claim 6, so claim 8 is allowable. Claim 9 and 10 are allowable because they depend on claim 6. Claim 1 is amended to include elements similar to those in allowable claim 6, so claim 1 is allowable. Claims 4 and 5 are allowable because they depend on claim 1.

Claim 17 is canceled, and its elements are incorporated into independent claim 16, so claim 16 is allowable. Claim 18 is amended to depend on claim 16, so claim 18 is allowable. Claims 19 and 20 are allowable because they depend on claim 16.

Claim 12 is canceled, and its elements are incorporated into independent claim 11, so claim 11 is allowable. Claim 13 is amended to depend on claim 11, so claim 13 is allowable. Claims 14 and 15 are allowable because they depend on claim 11.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as unpatentable over Simmons (US 6,223,305). Claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as unpatentable over Jantz (US 6,487,677). Claims 16, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Klein (US 6,145,102) in view of McNamara (US 6,125,465).

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-20 are patentable over the references for the reasons argued above. Claims 2, 3, 7, 12, and 17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, so the rejections are moot.

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Conclusion


Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (651-645-7135) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0465.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Luick,

By his Representative,

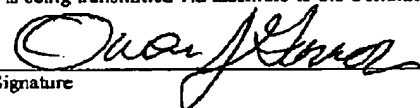

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents 571-273-8300, on September 7, 2006.

Owen J. Gamon
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